

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Amended) A tamping machine for soil compaction, comprising:  
a working mass which is driven in a tamping manner and which can be driven linearly back and forth, via a crank mechanism and a spring assembly, by a motor belonging to an upper mass, wherein the crank mechanism has at least one structural element which is moveable linearly back and forth and which is produced from a material, the density of which is lower than that of steel, and wherein the structural element which is moveable linearly back and forth is a structural element from the group comprising a connecting rod, a piston pin, a guide piston, and a piston guide.
2. (Original) The tamping machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material is an aluminum alloy.
3. (Currently Amended) The tamping machine as claimed in of-claim 1, wherein the material is a plastic.
4. (Previously Amended) The tamping machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piston guide is produced from plastic in one piece together with at least one dampening bushing.

5. (Original) A tamping machine for soil compaction, comprising:
  - a working mass which is linearly reciprocatable in a tamping direction to tamp soil;
  - a crank mechanism and a spring assembly which drive said working mass to linearly reciprocate in the tamping direction; and
  - an upper mass including a motor operatively coupled to the crank mechanism; wherein the crank mechanism has at least one structural element which is linearly reciprocatable and which is produced from a material having a density lower than that of steel, and wherein the structural element comprises at least one of a connecting rod, a piston pin, a guide piston, and a piston guide.
6. (Original) The tamping machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the material is an aluminum alloy.
7. (Original) The tamping machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the material is a plastic.
8. (Twice Amended) The tamping machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein the piston guide is produced from plastic in one piece together with at least one dampening bushing.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)

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14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)